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LONDON LETTER.

London, January 26, 1910.

Although the utmost reticence is at present preserved I hear on good authority that the art collection of the late Mr. Montague Guest will be sold this year, and that his pictures, which include some good examples of Old Masters, are being catalogued for Messrs. Christie.

It has just transpired here that the well-known picture by Romney, "Lady Hamilton Posing as the Mother of Three Children," formerly owned by the Marquis of Townshend, and which was disposed of after the sale of the Townshend collection three years ago—went to the United States, and now hangs in the gallery of a prominent and discriminating Western collector. The same collector, I understand, has secured the noted example of Jules Dupre, known as "The Twin Oaks," always considered one of his finest works. I am further informed that both these pictures were sold through the Ralston Galleries of New York, Mr. Ralston having secured them on his visit to London last summer.

An oil painting entitled "Music by the Water," by R. Anning Bell and a watercolor drawing of "Cupid's Alley," by Arthur Rackham have been bequeathed by the late Sir Mathew Cosset to the Tate Gallery, where they have now been hung in Room XVII.

For some years past the National Gallery of Scotland and the Royal Scottish Academy have been cramped for want of space, and now a means has been found to give each more space without rebuilding. An official order, signed by Lord Pentland, Secretary of State for Scotland, has just been issued dealing with the allocation of the two buildings on the Mound in Edinburgh, formerly known as the Royal Institution and the National Gallery and Royal Scottish Academy Galleries. In future the Royal Institution will be known as the Royal Scottish Academy, while the whole of the southern building will henceforth be devoted exclusively to the National Gallery of Scotland.

A memorial exhibition of works by the late Charles Conder opens today at the Carfax Gallery. Conder is famous for his revival of fan-painting and was also known as the author of many dainty lithographs, but comparatively few are aware of his skill and success as a decorator. The feature of this exhibition is a series of nine painted silk panels, which show on a pale café-au-lait ground medallions tied together with painted pale rose ribbons. Each medallion shows "conversation pieces" of exquisitely graceful figures beneath tender blue skies. This suite is remarkably refined and harmonious in color and has a dream-like beauty. Fans and other paintings on silk by Conder are also shown in this exhibition, as well as a few of his landscapes in oils, and the whole collection testifies pathetically to the luxuriant genius of the artist whose early death was so great a blow to British art.

The sixth annual exhibition of the Society of Twelve, founded to encourage original prints and drawings, is open at Messrs. Obach's Galleries in New Bond Street. A new member of the Society is Ernest Cole, whose studies of heads, etched and drawn, show great constructive ability and sculptural power. For a young man his work is full of promise and he should do well as a sculptor and decorative painter. Among the older members the novelties of the exhibition are provided by

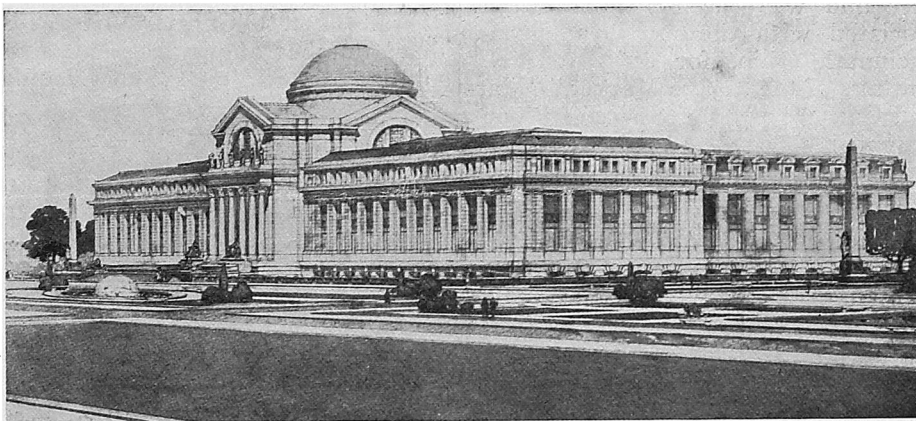
William Strang, whose goldpoints show unmistakably that he has been influenced by the drawing of his junior, Augustus John, while D. Y. Cameron, in a number of synthetic landscapes, shows kinship with Prof. C. J. Holmes in his emphasis on design and his ascetic elimination of all save the essential features of the scene before him. Admirable work is also shown by Francis Dodd, his vigorous etched portraits having Rembrandtesque qualities, and many of his drawings considerable tragic power. Drawings by George Clausen, lithographs by Charles Shannon, etchings and drawings by Alphonse Legros and Muirhead Bone, and four masterly studies by Augustus John are the principal remaining numbers of this exhibition.

New U. S. National Museum

A complete and most interesting history of the National Gallery of Art at Washington, by Mr. Richard Rathbun, assistant Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, has recently been published. The handsome volume, beautifully printed and well illustrated with reproductions of some of the most important pictures owned by the Government should be in the hands of all lovers of and believers in the future of American Art. The author has compiled the volume, which he modestly calls a "paper," with great care and accuracy. He gives a chronological

given on this page. This has been divided into galleries by screens which gives sufficient wall space for the present picture collection. Mr. Rathbun says:

"The question of providing quarters for the gallery which shall furnish entirely suitable conditions for the exhibition of paintings, as well as ample space to meet the requirements of the near future, is now under consideration. The art interests of the country, stimulated by the recent benefactions, have very generally urged the immediate erection of a special building for the



NEW BUILDING FOR UNITED STATES NATIONAL MUSEUM.

Perspective View of Building as it Will Appear When Finished. Taken From the Southeast, and Showing the South or Main Front and the East Side. Hornblower and Marshall, Architects.

story of the Government's action on and attitude towards the cause of art in the country, from the establishment of the Institute in 1840 to date, and publishes, for the interest and doubtless to the surprise of many art lovers and historical students, much valuable data, secured from manuscripts in and published reports of the Smithsonian.

A full list of the pictures and art objects in Mr. Charles L. Freer's collections, deeded to the Nation, and of the pictures forming the Harriet Lane Johnson, and William T. Evans collections, also donated to the Government, together with a list of other pictures and objects acquired in former years for the National Gallery and which forms a catalogue to the present time, of the Gallery's possessions, is also given.

The illustrations, about a score in number, include full-page half-tone reproductions of four of the Johnson portraits, twelve of the Evans paintings, and a few of earlier works.

Mr. Rathbun is to be congratulated on the excellent work he has done for the cause of art in America, in compiling and publishing this volume, which should be in every art library.

The National Gallery Collection is soon to be placed in the large North Hall of the handsome new Museum building, an illustration of which is

fine arts collections of the nation, arguing that such a recognition of the subject by the Government would at once lead to many and important contributions. This desire, which can only be interpreted as an expression of favorable sentiment, is both gratifying and propitious, but to the Institution it seems best to advance with greater deliberation. The planning of a building would require some time, and even though only a part of it were constructed in the beginning, it is doubtful if the present nucleus would be regarded as a sufficient argument for the expenditure that would be called for."

"The fine, large building which is now under construction for the natural history departments of the Museum is the outcome of many years' collecting, and has been rendered imperative by the immense amount of material to be preserved and exhibited. The course which appears to be most justifiable, at present, is to fit up a provisional gallery, of sufficient size to accommodate such additions as may be expected within a period of several years, or until some definite conclusion may be reached as to the future. The Institution can furnish the requisite amount of space, and it will only be necessary to adapt it to the purpose from the standpoint of lighting and wall space for hanging."

OBITUARY.

Sir George Drummond of Montreal died in that city on Wednesday, aged 81. He was the son of the late George Drummond of Edinburgh and came to Canada, where he made a large fortune, as a youth. He was twice married, his last wife having been the widow of Mr. George Hamilton. He was President of the Bank of Montreal, a member of many clubs and an art collector of taste and discrimination. His collections were described in the Art News of July last.

Joseph Becker.

Joseph Becker, for many years art director of the Frank Leslie publications, and a noted civil war artist and correspondent, died this week in Brooklyn, aged 72.

PARIS LETTER.

Paris, Jan. 25, 1910.

Things have been somewhat slack lately at the Hôtel Drouot, with nothing special to relate except a sale conducted by M. Lair Dubreuil, and which produced 13,206 frs. A wall panel of the French school, after Lancret, made 390 frs., while another set of five panels with landscapes and figures was knocked down for 1,400 frs. A Louis XVIth mirror with a wooden frame made 300 frs., while another Louis XVth mirror went for 155 frs. Among the furniture, two Louis XVIth doors in carved wood, painted grey, made 170 frs., and a Louis XVIth chest of drawers 192 frs. The sum of 110 frs. was given for an armchair in carved wood, hung with red velvet, of the same period.

At another sale, a painting entitled "Tête de Femme," of the French school, was knocked down by M. Coutanceau for 805 frs. The long expected sale of Sultan Abd-el-Aziz's jewels will not take place, as they have just been redeemed from the Mont-de-Piété office in exchange for the sum of 1,500,000 frs.

M. J. Valmy-Baysse informs comic artists that the fourth Salon des Humoristes will be held at the Palais de Glace April 23 to June 12, all communications to be sent to him at the "Rire" office. Another exhibition is announced by the Syndicate of the Art Press, to consist in an interesting show of the paintings by Dehodencq, Coignet's excellent and not sufficiently known pupil.

Mention should be made of Camille Pissaro's private show at the Durand-Ruel Galleries, and of the Valloton exhibition at Druet's Gallery, while a deal of interest is elicited by the opening in Berlin, by the German Emperor, of the "Exhibition of French Art in the XVIIIth century," on behalf of the French Governesses' Home in that capital.

Yet another museum is to be opened in Paris in a few weeks, when a unique collection of the most important police documents relating to the history of France for many centuries will be shown to the public in a dependency of the Préfecture de Police, Quai des Orfèvres.

A yearly prize of 200 frs. has just been founded by M. Frantz Jourdain, President of the Art Press Syndicate, for the art critic who will support independent art and bring to light unknown talent, either in France or abroad. M. de Richter, a Parisian collector, has bequeathed to the Comédie Française Theatre a pastel by Cherfils, entitled "Portrait d'Arnould Poisson," and which, strange to say, bears a perfect likeness to that of Coquelin "ainé."

The Louvre Museum, which has a million and a half francs to spend this year, has paid 50,000 frs. for the terracotta bust of Mme. de Verninac, one of the most precious numbers of the famous Chinard collection.

The second exhibition of the Société des Peintres et Sculpteurs Français, otherwise known as the Winter Salon, will be held at the Grand Palais, Jan. 20 to Feb. 19.

M. Dumouthier, curator of the French national "Mobilier," is now preparing an exhibition of XVIIth and XVIIIth century cloths and tapestries. He has discovered in the archives of the old "Mobilier de la Couronne" most valuable documents concerning decorative art during the reigns of Louis XIV and Louis XV, which will make the coming exhibition interesting.